implemented. Although the present operating and safety systems of the plant are adequate as per original design, up-gradation is contemplated to the extent applicable in line with the current safety standards. Similar exercise for MAPS-2 will also be carried out whenever the coolant channel replacement for this reactor will be due.

(c) The design of our Nuclear Power Plants follows the concepts of defence-indepth, diversity, redundancy to assure safety. Rigorous quality assurance programmes and safety reviews in the design, manufacture, construction and operation of nuclear power reactors are implemented by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited. Regular surveillance and internal/external audits are carried out to ensure high level of safety. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) conducts safety reviews during all the stages of setting -up and operation of nuclear powerplants through its multi-tier system of review. Any corrective action required based on such reviews are promptly attended to. AERB performs regulator)' inspections every six months for verification of the safety of the plants. AERB also carries out in-depth safety assessment every five years in order to re-authorise further operation of the plant. In view of all these measures, there is no possibility of catastrophe.

Right to Maintain Minimum Nuclear Deterrent

4151. SHRI C. M. IMBRAHIM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1566 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 2000 and state :

(a) whether during the recent visit of US President to New Delhi, Government asserted that India has the right to maintain a minimum deterrent, and

(b) if so, whether the precise nature and extent of minimum nuclear deterrence has been defined as discussed with the US team or otherwise conceptualised, and the board features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJ1T KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. India's decision is also reflected in the Vision Statement signed by the Prime Minister and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

(b) India and the US are engaged in an ongoing dialogue on security, non-proliferation and disarmament issues. This dialogue is predicated on India maintaining a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. India's minimum deterrent

is not a fixed quantification, it is a policy approach dictated by and determined in the context of our security environment.

ISI Activities in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East

4152. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) agency is fomenting external violence in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East;

(b) if so, whether ISI is working through dissident groups with bases in Bangladesh;

(c) whether ISI agents in Bangladesh are encouraging, training and arming some of the militants of the United Liberation Front of Assam and other groups; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government are aware that Pakistan's ISI has been misusing the territory of Bangladesh for their anti-India activities. According to recently available information, the ULFA leadership maintains close touch with some officials of the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka.

Government has been regularly taking up security related issues with the Government of Bangladesh through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisns that exist between the two countries. The Government of Bangladesh has stated that they will not allow the use of Bangladeshi territory for activities, which are prejudicial to the security interests of India.

International Consensus Against the Menace of Terrorism

4153. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that there is an urgent need to evolve an international consensus against the menace of terrorism which posed a great threat to democratic society;